

withhold the benefits of new technology from millions of other non-military overseas voters in a manner that is inconsistent with the purposes of UOCAVA. According to the language of this amendment, only those with an existing affiliation to DOD will continue to benefit from the IVAS program in contrast to the broader group of citizens covered by UOCAVA, including overseas voters who are not members of the military, employees of the Defense Department or a dependent of either group.

As my colleague know, UOCAVA treats all overseas voters—military, civilian or otherwise—equally with respect to voting rights. Classes of voters under UOCAVA are not bifurcated. This approach ensures that the all voters are treated in a nondiscriminatory manner under UOCAVA.

The number of overseas voters continues to make a difference in our Federal elections. The Federal Voting Assistance Program, FVAP, under the Secretary of Defense estimates that over 3 percent of the total vote in the 1996, 2000, and 2004 elections came from abroad. In addition, an umbrella coalition focused on military and overseas voters estimates that the number of Americans residing overseas have ranged from 3 million to 6 million, but generally put the global population somewhere around 4 million. The coalition's member organizations include the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas Inc, FAWCO, the American Citizens Abroad, ACA, the Alliance of American Organizations—Spain and Portugal, ALLAMO and the Association of Americans Resident Overseas, AARO. Overseas voters are important Americans who, under the goals of UOCAVA, must have the same opportunity to cast a vote and have that vote counted as their military counterparts.

There is nothing more fundamental to the vitality and endurance of a democracy of the people, by the people and for the people, than the people's right to vote. Thomas Paine wrote in 1795 that, "the right of voting for representatives is the primary right by which other rights are protected." This statement takes on an even more significant meaning to Americans when America is at war.

As a former Peace Corps volunteer, I can offer testimony to the meaningful contributions made by overseas citizens who are not included in the covered classes under the amendment of my colleague from Montana. At a time when the image of the United States is receiving international scrutiny, the work of individuals such as Peace Corps volunteers is critical. The work of all our overseas citizens, whether they serve in the military to protect us back at home or whether they conduct businesses and raise their families overseas, must be honored with an absolute equal opportunity to vote in Federal elections.

We should not take any actions to discourage our civilian overseas voters.

We should not treat civilian overseas voters any differently than overseas military or DOD contract voters, and certainly not by erecting an artificial bifurcation barrier between military and civilian votes under UOCAVA.

I appreciate the fact that this amendment recognizes the need to eliminate that bifurcation by requiring DOD to report specifically on expanding the use of electronic voting technology for all voters under UOCAVA. I look forward to that report and will continue to work to ensure that all American citizens living overseas have an equal opportunity to participate in our democracy through the ballot box.

AMENDMENT NO. 4241

Mr. McCain. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

This amendment would name the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 after the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, our distinguished friend and colleague from Virginia, JOHN WARNER. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Senators FRIST, LEVIN, INHOFE, KENNEDY, ROBERTS, BYRD, SESSIONS, LIEBERMAN, COLLINS, JACK REED, ENSIGN, AKAKA, TALENT, BILL NELSON, CHAMBLISS, BEN NELSON, GRAHAM, DAYTON, DOLE, BAYH, CORNYN, CLINTON, THUNE, ALLARD, and ALLEN.

I am certain that there is not a Senator in this Chamber who would not agree that Senator WARNER, with his grace, courtliness, bipartisan attitude: and kindness to all, represents the finest traditions of the Senate. All Senators know that the Defense Authorization bill occupies a major place in the annual legislative calendar and takes substantial time to complete. Those Senators who do not have the privilege of serving on the Committee on Armed Services may not realize the tremendous amount of work that goes into hearings, formulation of legislative proposals, preparation for markup, and actual markup of this bill—the largest annually recurring piece of legislation in Congress. When one adds to this the oversight of the largest department in the government, and the processing of thousands of military and civilian nominations each year, the demands on the chairman of the committee and the need for leadership are obvious. For 6 years, JOHN WARNER has provided that leadership, and done it in a manner that has gained him universal respect.

JOHN WARNER is, first and foremost, a Virginian—a native of that Old Dominion that has stood at the center of American history for over two centuries and has given the Nation so many of its eminent men, from Washington forward. JOHN WARNER has continued that tradition of service to country from his youth. The son of a decorated Army physician in World War I, JOHN WARNER left high school to enlist in the Navy late in World War II. He served until 1946, when he was discharged as a petty officer 3rd class.

Like millions of other young Americans, he then attended college on the GI bill, graduating from Washington and Lee University in 1949. He then entered the University of Virginia Law School. He interrupted his education to serve in the Korean war, volunteering for active duty and accepting a commission in the Marine Corps. He served in combat as a ground officer in the First Marine Air Wing, and remained in the Marine Corps Reserve for several years. Upon returning from the Korean war, he resumed his legal education, graduating from the University of Virginia Law School in 1953.

Upon graduation, JOHN WARNER's outstanding qualities were recognized when he was selected to serve as the law clerk to the late Judge E. Barrett Prettyman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, one of the most outstanding jurists of the period. Many years later, Senator WARNER would be instrumental in naming the U.S. Court House in Washington, DC, for his old mentor. After his clerkship, JOHN WARNER became an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Columbia, and later was engaged in the private practice of law.

In 1969, President Nixon nominated JOHN WARNER to serve as Under Secretary of the Navy. The Senate confirmed the nomination, and he served as Under Secretary until he was confirmed and appointed as the 61st Secretary of the Navy in 1972. During his tenure as Secretary, the United States and the Soviet Union signed the Incidents at Sea Executive Agreement, for which he was the principal United States negotiator and signatory. This agreement remains in effect today and has served as a model for similar agreements governing naval vessels and aircraft around the world.

After leaving the Department of the Navy in 1974, JOHN WARNER's next public service was as chairman of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. He oversaw the celebration of the Nation's founding, directing the Federal Government's role in a commemoration that embraced all 50 States and over 20 foreign nations.

In 1978, the voters of Virginia elected JOHN WARNER to a full term in the U.S. Senate. Upon beginning his service in 1979, he was elected a member of the Committee on Armed Services. Upon leaving the chairmanship next year, he will have served on the committee for 28 years, almost half of the committee's existence. Senator WARNER served as chairman of the committee from 1999 to 2001, and again since 2003. He also served as ranking member from 1987 to 1993, and again from 2001 to 2003. For 14 years of American history, years that saw the end of the Cold War, the first gulf war, the attacks on September 11, 2001, and the global war on terror, JOHN WARNER has served in a leadership role on the committee.

No Member of this body has done more for our national security than JOHN WARNER. As sailor, Marine officer, Under Secretary, and Secretary of